



# **2009 Tropical Cyclone Conference**

## **27 Apr - 01 May**

**USFJ TCCOR Mission**  
**1Lt Ryan Willis**  
**374 OSS/OSW Wing Wx Officer**



# Agenda

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- US Forces Japan (USFJ) Tropical Cyclone Support
    - Roles/Responsibilities
    - Tropical Cyclone Condition of Readiness (TCCOR) Defined
    - Procedures on a “Typical Day”
  - Lessons Learned
  - Important Notes
  - Questions
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# USFJ TC Support

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- Roles/Responsibilities

- Per USFJ Instruction 15-4001, USFJ/CC has delegated TCCOR to USFJ/J3 (Operations).
  - J3 is the TCCOR **Declaration** Authority
  - 5 AF Staff Weather Officer (also 374 OSS/OSW Flight Commander) is the TCCOR **Recommending** Authority
  - J3 declares TCCORs 4-1, Storm Watch, and All Clear for Kanto Plain (Yokota, Atsugi, Camp Zama, Camp Fuji)
  - Installation Commander (example: 374 AW/CC) declares TCCORs 1C, 1E, 1R
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# USFJ TC Support

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- TCCOR is defined by **timing** of destructive winds ( $\geq 50$  kts sustained)
  - TCCOR 4: Destructive winds **possible** within 72 hours
  - TCCOR 3: Destructive winds **possible** within 48 hours
  - TCCOR 2: Destructive winds **anticipated** within 24 hours
  - TCCOR 1: Destructive winds **anticipated** within 12 hours
  - **TCCOR 1 Caution:** Observed winds 35-49 knots are occurring
  - **TCCOR 1 Emergency:** Destructive winds are occurring
  - **TCCOR 1 Recovery:** Period of time to survey damage/create safety
  - TCCOR Storm Watch: Close proximity & erratic movement
  - TCCOR All Clear: Storm is over and not forecast to return

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## • Kanto Plain Declaration Authority

- USEI/13      TCCOR 4   3   2   1   All Clear   Storm Watch



# USFJ TC Support

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- Procedures on a “Typical Day”
    - 0600L 18z Warning Graphic Available
    - 0630L JTWC Conference Call
    - 0700L TC Update Email to Wing Leadership
    - 0730L Kanto Plain Conference Call/Slides Due to Wing
    - 0800L Draft TCCOR Declaration Message/Daily Wing Briefing
    - 0830L Discuss TCCOR Declaration Message (J3)
    - 0900L Distribute TCCOR Declaration Message/Notifications
    - 0930L Wing Briefings (if required)/Phone Calls
    - 1200L 00z Warning Graphic Available
    - 1300L TC Update Email to Wing Leadership/Briefs/Phone Calls
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- **Entire work day is absorbed by 1 storm impacting Kanto**



# Lessons Learned

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- Communication is key!
  - USFJ/J3 drives almost all TCCOR changes, but 374 AW/CC needs visibility as soon as possible (“who to brief first”)
  - Conference call with JTWC sets baseline/forecast reasoning
  - Conference call with Yokosuka imperative (CNFJ vs USFJ missions)
  - Maintain single forecast once established (minimize misinformation)
- Storms ALMOST never go as forecast (TY 15W had **47 warnings!**)
- Wind effects between Yokosuka and Kanto Plain bases
  - Yokosuka exposed/vulnerable to ocean
  - ~~• Atsugi usually sees drop off on winds from Yokosuka~~
  - Yokota “rarely” gets strong winds (terrain influence)



# Important Notes

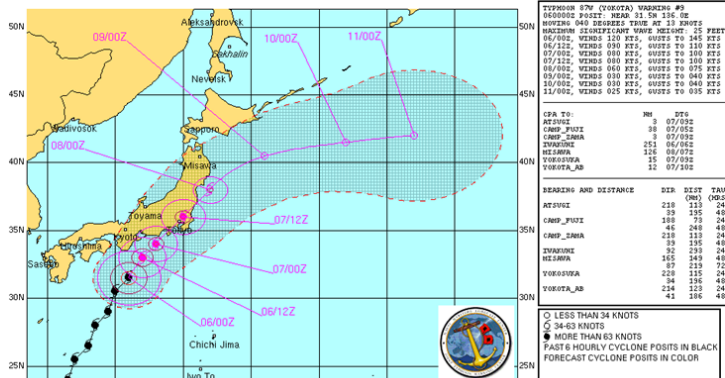
- Products have HIGH visibility!
  - JTWC and 17 OWS products are seen by high ranking officials
    - USFJ/J3 reports directly to 5AF/CC (3 star general)
  - Tropical products and forecasted tracks need to be fairly



## Typhoon 87W



EXERCISE EXERCISE EXERCISE



EXERCISE EXERCISE EXERCISE

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## Typhoon 87W



EXERCISE EXERCISE EXERCISE

- TCCOR 4
- TCCOR 3
- TCCOR 2
- TCCOR 1
- TCCOR 1C
- TCCOR 1E
- TCCOR 1R
- ALL CLEAR
- 55 KTS WND
- MAX WND 80 KTS

Assumed at STARTEX  
Declared Monday 09L  
Declared Tuesday 09L  
Declared Tuesday 15L

Estimated Wednesday 09L  
Estimated Wednesday 12L  
Estimated Wednesday 15L  
Estimated Thursday 09L

Wednesday 12-15L  
Wednesday 12L

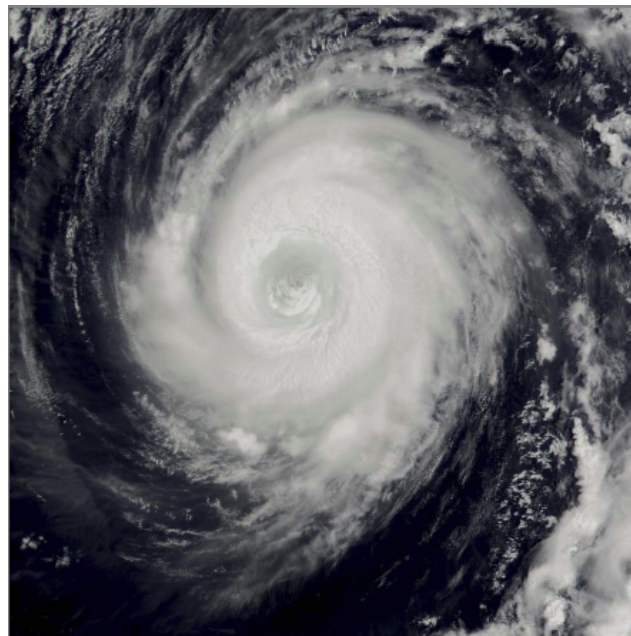
EXERCISE EXERCISE EXERCISE

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## Questions?



MODIS visible image of Typhoon Man-Yi (04W) as it passed northeast of Iwo To on 6 Aug 2007. Image courtesy of NASA Earth Observatory